

The suspended-sediment load carried by a stream is a function of both the stream discharge and the suspended-sediment concentration of the water. Most of the suspended-sediment transport to coastal receiving waters takes place over short time periods during and immediately following storms. At a given site in a stream, the time of peak concentration of suspended sediments in the stream commonly occurs at or lags behind the time of peak discharge during a storm. However, in some places, the time of peak concentration of suspended sediments may precede the time of peak discharge because the first flush of material may occur during the early part of the storm.